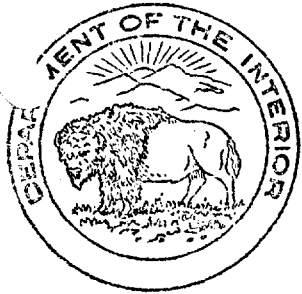


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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Advance Release to the PM's of FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1946.

"Duck stamps", costing \$1 each, which migratory waterfowl hunters over 16 are required to buy each year, reached a new sales high of \$1,540,468 for the period from July 1 to December 31, 1945, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, reported today.

This record-breaking total represents an increase of 257,002 over the corresponding period in 1944 when 1,283,466 stamps were purchased by waterfowl hunters, conservationists, and philatelists.

Although final reports will boost the new total still higher, Dr. Gabrielson pointed out that sales of the 1945-46 stamps have already exceeded by \$53,439 the total sales of the 1944-45 series at \$1,487,029.

Ninety per cent of the money realized from the sale of the stamps is used by the Fish and Wildlife Service to supplement other funds for the purchase and maintenance of waterfowl refuges throughout the country. The remaining 10 percent is used for the printing and distribution of the stamps, enforcement of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, and other Federal activities for migratory bird conservation.

All "duck stamps" show wild ducks or geese of different species in some characteristic flight phase. The current stamp, twelfth in the series, showing three shovellers in full spring plumage, was designed by Owen J. Gromme, curator of birds and mammals at the Milwaukee Public Museum in Milwaukee, Wis.

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